

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

IN OPPOSITION TO
L.D. 1232**

**“RESOLVE, DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND
WILDLIFE TO AMEND ITS RULES REGARDING THE BAG LIMIT ON SMELTS”**

SPONSORED BY: Senator DAVIS of PISCATAQUIS

CO-SPONSORED BY: Senator SAVIELLO of FRANKLIN

DATE OF HEARING: April 23, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Davis, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. My name is Michael Brown, Fisheries Division Director at the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking on behalf of the Department, in opposition to **L.D. 1232**.

The Department recognizes that the present law allows recreational anglers to keep 2-quarts of smelts. This law was recently instituted to provide additional opportunities for recreational anglers to keep the entire 2-quart limit alive for bait. We continue to support the current 2-quart limit restriction as it currently stands. It appears the intent of this bill was to increase the bag limit; however, depending on the size of the smelt, it may reduce the numbers of smelts that may be kept.

We would like to remind the Committee that a Resolve that directs the Department to go through rule-making provides an opportunity for public input and may complicate making changes to the existing law. This Resolve may not guarantee the intended outcome if the Department is directed to pursue rule-making.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.